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AUTHOR Ward, G. Robert, Comp.; Borgers, Sherry B., Comp.
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this learning module developed at the University of Houston is to aid the prospective teacher in defining problems so that decision making can be handled in a flexible manner. The student is presented with five situations and asked to define the problem from the point of view of the student, the teacher, and the parent. The module has no prerequisites, no enabling objectives, and no preassessment procedures. The terminal objective is exploratory in nature. (HMD)

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EMPORIA KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
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ITEM NO. 74
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AFFECTIVE

7.0

Decision Making I

Compiled by:

G. Robert Ward

Sherry B. Borgers

University of Houston

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SP008 805

AFFECTIVE 7

I. IDENTIFIERS:

A. Module Name:

Decision Making

B. Compiled by:

G. Robert Ward

Sherry B. Borgers

C. Area

Affective

D. Number

7

II. PROSPECTUS:

A. Rationale:

The first step in decision making is defining the problem.

B. Purpose:

This module and the following two modules are to help you in making decisions in a flexible manner. They ask you to define the problem, to choose alternatives, and to make a decision based upon relevant feedback.

C. Overview of Module:

1. Complete these activities individually:
   a. Define the Problem, and
   b. Problems in Teaching.
2. Submit answer sheet for activities to instructor.

D. Terminal Objective:

The terminal objective is exploratory in nature. Upon completion of this module you will have participated in activities designed to provide practice in defining a problem.

E. How to Complete Module:

In this module you will define the problem in each situation. These activities are to be done individually.

III. PREREQUISITES.

None

IV. ENABLING OBJECTIVES:

None

V. PRE-ASSESSMENT:

None

VI. ACTIVITIES:

A. General Instructions:

The activities provide an opportunity for you to increase your ability to define the problem. There are no right or correct responses to any of the situations.

> If you have questions, if you have concerns, or if a particular task seems to be difficult for you, please contact the instructor. Remember to complete the module as honestly as possible so that you can gain the maximum benefit from the suggested activities.

B. Specific Activities:

7.1 Complete these activities individually:

a. Define the Problem:

You are to read the following cases. In each case define the problem from the student's point of view, the parents' point of view, and the teacher's point of view. See Appendix A for the answer sheet. After you have completed the answer sheet, submit it to the instructor.

(1) Case 1.

Brenda's father had a serious automobile

accident several months before and is unable to return to work. Her mother is working in a department store as a clerk while her father takes care of the two small children. Her mother's earnings are insufficient to support the family.

This is the background information that you have as Brenda's teacher, and now Brenda is asking you to help her. "Somebody's got to or I'm just going to die! There's this dance our class is having Friday night, and there's this boy all the girls are simply wild about, and he's asked me to go, and I haven't got a thing to wear. Mother just won't listen. There's this dress down at the store where she works, and you can get it for just a dollar or two down, but she just can't see how I've simply got to have it. I've tried to tell her I'd do anything- I'd cut out my allowance, take care of the children, anything! But she still says I can't have it. I'll eat less. I'll do anything! Can't you talk to her and get her to realize how I just can't go unless - I've got to go - it means more than anything on earth to me - and I just can't wear -." Here Brenda burst into tears.

(2) Case 2.

Cash is fourteen years old and in the tenth grade where he is barely passing despite an I.Q. of 135. At his parents'

insistence, he was permitted to skip the sixth grade because of his high I.Q. and his exceptionally good work in the previous grade although the school authorities had been somewhat reluctant. Cash did surprisingly well in the seventh grade; however, his parents demanded more of him. In the eighth and ninth grades, Cash's performance steadily decreased, despite growing parental disapproval and pressure.

At the present time Cash is suffering from stomach trouble, with frequent vomiting. He complains of being tired and depressed.

In addition to the above symptoms, he has been irritable with an uncontrollable temper; he stomps, yells, and voices wild threats toward both himself and others. Receiving a low grade, being reprimanded, or refusing his requests can start a tantrum.

The parents do not understand Cash's behavior and want you to help him so that he can be a good student and continue his education; they want him to receive his M.D. degree from one of the better universities on the East Coast.

(3) Case 3.

Dean is nine years old and small for his age and has a deformed leg and hand. His I.Q. on a group intelligence test is 90, and he is near failing although he always seems to barely pass. He is shunned by the majority

of his classmates and does not attempt to make any close friends. He is unenthusiastic in class activities and often starts fights on the playground. His family is below the socioeconomic mean of his class and never participates in school activities or PTA. Dean reads a great deal, but mostly comic books and lurid magazines which he swaps with other boys who are usually younger than he. He is never the initiator of classroom trouble but always joins in any mischief that goes on. He passively responds to you when you ask him a question.

(4) Case 4.

Elaine has been offered a fully paid scholarship for college next year because of your recommendation. She seems undecided about accepting the scholarship because of her father's attitude toward higher education. He feels that Elaine would be better off if she just settled down and got married. He believes that this would keep Elaine out of trouble and stop her from association with those wild college students who use drugs and start riots.

Her father's feelings toward colleges are very strong, and he openly states that the recent student rebellions and riots which have taken place on the various campuses are due to the subversive influences of other countries. He feels that the streets of our

country are in turmoil because the colleges turn out those long haired, hippie looking liberals.

His stance is that no one needs a college degree to succeed and that law and order can be restored if we would close the doors of all colleges. He further points out that he did not go beyond high school and he is living a good life.

Elaine must accept her scholarship within the next two weeks or she will lose her chance of receiving it. Although you are trying to let her make her own decision about whether or not to accept the scholarship, you feel strongly that Elaine has the capability of succeeding in any field she chooses. Since her college expenses would be paid you believe she would be making a grave mistake if she were to ignore this opportunity. Furthermore you are not sympathetic to her father's feelings or attitude.

b. Problems in Teaching:

Think about the teaching profession. Identify some of the problems in teaching. Choose problems which are significant to you. See Appendix A for Answer sheet. When finished, submit the answer sheet to the instructor.

VII. POST-ASSESSMENT:

Submit answer sheet for Define the Problem and Problems in Teaching to instructor.

APPENDIX A

ANSWER SHEET

Decision Making I

I. Define the Problem.

Case 1

Student's point of view._____

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Parents' point of view._____

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Teacher's point of view._____

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Case 2

Student's point of view._____

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Parents' point of view._____

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Teacher's point of view._____

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Case 3

Student's point of view._____

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Parents' point of view._____

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Teacher's point of view._____

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Case 4

Student's point of view._____

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Parents' point of view._____

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Teacher's point of view._____

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II. Problems in Teaching.

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3._____

4._____

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10._____